



# ***News Release***

## **PRESS OFFICE**

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### **U.S. Small Business Administration Selects Guilford Resident As 2007 Veteran Small Business Champion of the Year**

**Guilford, Conn.** – Thomas S. Bednarczyk, Guilford resident and president and owner of SilverLining Partners LLC, Naugatuck, CT was named the 2007 Veteran Small Business Champion of the Year for Connecticut and the New England Region consisting of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

Mr. Bednarczyk is founder and owner of SilverLining Partners, a privately owned professional services company focused on optimizing a client's investments in technology by developing and delivering a collection of customized programs, formed into a unique solution to enhance and improve existing infrastructure. Each program is designed to ensure that a customer's technology investment will deliver optimal return over its lifetime.

Mr. Bednarczyk has served on the Small Business Administrations Advisory Committee on Veteran Affairs since 2004 and is currently the Vice President. The Committee, a volunteer group of veteran representatives from across the US, are responsible for reviewing the current state of veteran small business affairs and offering advice and policy to the Administrator of the SBA, the Associate Administrator for Veterans Business Development of the SBA, the Congress, the President and other United States policymakers.

Mr. Bednarczyk is also the Vice President for Veteran Activities within the Northeast Veteran Owned Business Network (NVOBN). NVOBN is a veteran organization made up of Veteran and Disabled Veteran Small Businesses within the geographical region from Maine to Pennsylvania. NVOBN is a resource for government agencies, prime contractors and private-sector companies providing a one-stop shop to fulfill contract diversity requirements and to look for quality Service Disabled Veteran and Veteran-owned businesses to fulfill sub-contracting needs.

Mr. Bednarczyk actively supports legislation for regulatory action designed to help small businesses. He saw the need for educational and training resources for veterans, and recently planted the seed for the pilot program, VET BIZ NOW!, launched in the Greater New Haven area. This program was developed to inform veterans of the numerous resources available to start, grow, and restart small businesses in Connecticut. Mr. Bednarczyk is involved in numerous other activities to improve awareness among veterans' groups to promote the growth of small business opportunities. Mr. Bednarczyk is married with three children and four grandchildren and lives in Guilford, CT.

The other awards and their recipients are:

**Small Business Person of the Year:** Lorenzo Cabrera, President and CEO, Cabrera Services in East Hartford.

**Minority Small Business Champion:** James Jackson, President and CEO, The Essex Group in Centerbrook.

**Small Business Exporter of the Year:** Carol Wallace, President and CEO, Cooper-Atkins, Corp. in Middlefield.

**Jeffrey H. Butland Family-owned Business of the Year:** Frank S. Beckerer, Jr. CEO, Beckson Manufacturing Inc., in Bridgeport.

**Small Business Journalist of the Year:** Josh Kovner, Staff Reporter, Hartford Courant in Middletown.

**Home-based Small Business of the Year:** John H. Waiveris, Owner, Invisible Gold, LLC in Windsor.

Award recipients will be honored during the Connecticut District Office 2007 Small Business Award Celebration Breakfast held at the Hawthorne Inn in Berlin on Thursday, May 24. For more information, contact Greta Johansson at (860) 240-4672 or Debra Dillon at (860) 240-4654.

*Information about the SBA and its programs also can be found at [www.sba.gov/ct](http://www.sba.gov/ct)*

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